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Thank you for your subscription to Rep. Dan Huberty's Newsletter. If you wish to unsubscribe, please use the SafeUnsubscribe option at the bottom of this email.



March 27, 2020

My office has set up a COVID-19 specific webpage on www.danhuberty.com for updates and state agency specific information. As this situation continues to develop, we will do our best to get all relevant information out through newsletters, as well as through posts on my Facebook page.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, both the Capitol and the District offices will remain closed. However, my staff will be teleworking and will be available via email. Please continue to follow safe social distancing and hygiene practices during this time, and know that we are available if needed. Be aware that all agencies are prioritizing COVID-19 virus related constituent casework before other matters.

The Texas House of Representatives is consolidating COVID-19 related information. To access the COVID-19 information, visit house.texas.gov/coronavirus.

Sincerely,



Capitol & District Office Closure Notice

Both the Capitol office and District office will remain closed in line with Governor Abbot's executive orders. Our offices will remain functioning, with staff working remotely. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Updates from Austin

Department of State Health Services
COVID-19 Case Dashboard

Texas Case Counts

COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

Gov. Abbott Issues Executive Order Mandating 14-Day Quarantine For Travelers Arriving From New York Tri-State Area, New Orleans

On Thursday, Governor Greg Abbott held a press conference at the State Capitol where he issued an Executive Order mandating a self-quarantine of 14 days for individuals traveling to Texas as their final destination through an airport from the Tri-State Area of New York, New Jersey, or Connecticut as well as the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. This Executive Order is consistent with the guidance of Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Deborah Birx of the White House Coronavirus Task Force and will be enforced by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). During this period, a quarantined person shall not allow visitors into or out of the designated quarantine location, other than a physician or healthcare provider, and cannot visit any public spaces. These mandatory self-quarantines will last a period of 14 days or for the duration of a person's presence in Texas, whichever is shorter.

"The State of Texas continues to act upon the recommendations of top state, federal, and local health experts as we implement a comprehensive strategy to limit the spread of COVID-19," said Governor Abbott. "The New York Tri-State Area and the City of New Orleans have become major centers of this pandemic, and it is vital that we take necessary precautions to prevent additional exposure that could originate from people traveling from these areas to Texas. This Executive Order is another important measure we are taking to protect the health and safety of Texans, and we will continue to take any action necessary to mitigate exposure to COVID-19 in our state."

Those entering Texas as their final destination from the designated areas will use a form from DPS to designate their quarantine location. DPS special agents will conduct unannounced visits to designated quarantine locations to verify compliance. Failure to comply with this order is considered a criminal offense that is punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine, up to 180 days in jail, or both.

This order to self-quarantine shall not apply to people traveling in connection with military service, emergency response, health response, or critical-infrastructure functions, as may be determined by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). This Executive Order will remain in effect and in full force until modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded by the Governor.

The Governor was joined for the press conference by Texas Department of State Health Services Commissioner John Hellerstedt, MD, and TDEM Chief Nim Kidd.

Click [HERE](#) to view the Executive Order

Texas Workforce Commission: Mass Claims Requests for Unemployment Benefits

In light of the increased layoffs and high volume of unemployment benefits applications being submitted as a result of COVID-19, please review TWC's guidelines for Mass Claim Requests below.

TWC's Mass Claims program streamlines the unemployment benefit claims process for employers facing temporary or permanent layoffs. To ensure employees receive their unemployment benefits as quickly as possible, employers can initiate claims on behalf of their workers by submitting basic information in advance of the layoff. Please note that in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, TWC has waived the requirement that Mass Claims Requests be submitted at least five days prior to the planned layoff.

Employers who have not yet laid off staff but need to can still log on to Employer Benefits Services (EBS) and submit their Mass Claim Request here: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/businesses/employer-benefits-services>

Businesses that have already initiated layoffs as a result of COVID-19 *cannot* use EBS to submit a Mass Claim. If the layoff date has already passed and affected 10 or more employees, the employer must fill out and submit Mass Claims document manually by:

- Completing the Mass Claims Spreadsheet: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/files/businesses/mass-claims-spreadsheet-twc.xlsx>
- Completing the Mass Claims Agreement Letter: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/files/businesses/mass-claims-agreement-letter-twc.docx>
- Emailing the completed documents to TWC's Mass Claims Coordinator at ui.massclaims@twc.state.tx.us along with the following information:
 1. Company name, address, phone number, and TWC Tax Account Number
 2. The layoff date and how many employees were affected
 3. Contact person's name, email address and phone number

We understand the challenges and difficult staffing decisions this pandemic has created for employers and appreciate their patience as TWC's Mass Claims department works to process requests as quickly as possible.

TWC and EBS are experiencing a significantly high volume of webpage users as a result of COVID-19, creating delays and outages for visitors attempting to access the unemployment benefit application system. Those experiencing issues with the site are asked to refresh the page or try again later as TWC works through the process of dramatically expanding their server capacity in order to meet the uptick in demand.

You can view all of the resources that TWC has made available for employers and job seekers throughout this public health crisis by visiting twc.texas.gov and clicking on the red banner at the top of the page.

Governor Abbott Announces National Guard Deployment in Support of COVID-19 Response



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

Governor Abbott Announces National Guard Deployment in...

As part of the state's ongoing response to COVID-19, Governor Greg Abbott today announced the deployment of three National Guard Joint Task Force Brigades. The 72nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and the...

[Read more](#)
gov.texas.gov

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts: Business

Sales Tax Payments Update

These are challenging times for businesses all over the nation. The Texas Comptroller's office knows that during periods of economic hardship, paying or remitting taxes and fees on time can feel like an extra burden when there's so much uncertainty. We're thankful to those businesses that were able to remit state and local sales taxes they collected from customers in February on the March 20, 2020, due date.

We understand that virtually all of our taxpayers are doing their best to remain in compliance and be responsible in submitting the taxes they collected from their customers. With that in mind, our agency is here to offer assistance to those businesses that are struggling to pay the full amount of sales taxes they collected in February.

For businesses that find themselves in this situation, our agency is offering assistance in the form of short-term payment agreements and, in most instances, waivers of penalties and interest.

We ask that you contact our Enforcement Hotline at 800-252-8880 to learn about your options for remaining in compliance and avoiding interest and late fees on taxes due.

In addition, we have a variety of online tools for businesses seeking assistance. See our [COVID-19 emergency response webpage](#) for access to online tools, tutorials and other resources for tax services, and to establish 24/7 online account access with [Webfile](#).

Texas Workforce Commission: Employer & Employee Resource Update

TWC is providing guidance for employers, job seekers, and child care facilities who participate in their subsidized child care program during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This information can be found by visiting www.twc.texas.gov and clicking on the red banner at the top of the webpage. Information on the website include:

Resources For Employers

- Legal Options & Work-From-Home Policies
- Unemployment Benefit Claim Self-Service for Employers
- Texas Unemployment Insurance (UI)

Mass Claims & Shared Work Programs

The Mass Claims program streamlines the unemployment benefit claims process for employers faced with either temporary or permanent layoffs. Employers can submit basic worker information on behalf of their employees to initiate claims for unemployment benefits and submit a mass claim request on Employer Benefits Services.

- Online Tax Services & Resources

Unemployment Benefit Claims & Employment Insurance

Resources for Child Care Services

COVID-19 Essential Workers Child Care Category

Visit the Texas Workforce Commission webpage guidance page [HERE](#).





AP Testing Available Taken Online

Because of the challenges created by COVID-19, the College Board is making significant changes to give AP students the opportunity to prepare for and take AP exams.




- The College Board announced **at-home digital testing so AP students can still take this year's exam** since schools may be closed. The exam content will focus on what most schools were able to complete by early March. Students will be able to take their exams on any device they have access to—computer, tablet, or smartphone. They'll also have the option to write their responses by hand and submit a photo. Details are available online and this info was sent to AP teachers this past Friday.
- Beginning this past Wednesday, students and schools have access to **free, live AP review lessons**, delivered by AP teachers from across the country. These daily lessons focus on reviewing the skills and concepts from the first 75% of the course. Hosted on the AP YouTube channel, these lessons will be recorded and available on-demand so teachers and students can access them any time. As of this earlier morning, there were nearly 800,000 views.
- The College Board is also working to **help students with connectivity issues** get access to the tools they need to use the practice resources and take the test as we understand that not all students have access to the internet or a device. Students who need mobile tools or connectivity

can reach out to the College Board directly.

2020 AP® Exams

-  45-minute free response exams
-  College credit opportunities
-  Two testing dates: one in May, one later
-  Tests what students have learned

Live AP® Review Lessons

-  Free
-  Lessons for every course
-  Daily lessons
-  Recorded and available on-demand

Updates From the District

Order of Harris County Judge Hidalgo Stay Home, Work Safe

Stay Home, Work Safe

Whereas, on March 11, 2020, Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo issued a Declaration of Local Disaster for Public Health Emergency to allow Harris County to take measures to reduce the possibility of exposure to COVID-19 and promote the health and...

[Read more](#)

www.readyharris.org

Questions on the order can be submitted to stayathome@cjo.hctx.net.

Greater Houston Partnership Releases "Work Safe Principles"

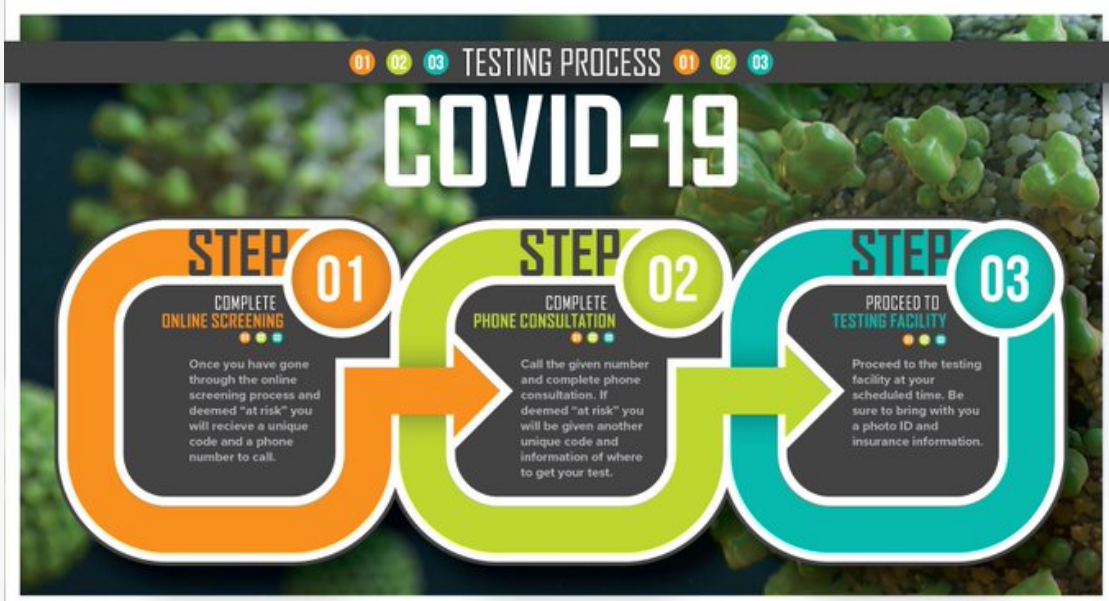


Greater Houston Partnership Releases 'Work Safe...

To comply with the Work Safe component of the order, companies that are permitted to continue their operations must do so in a manner than protects the health of their employees and minimizes the risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

[Read more](#)


Harris County COVID-19 Testing Information




**COVID-19 TESTING
ONLINE ASSESSMENT**

Click the "Coronavirus Testing" button on:
www.ReadyHarris.org

If you can't access the internet, call:
832-927-7575


COUNTY JUDGE
LINA HIDALGO


STATE OF TEXAS

Humble ISD Superintendent's COVID-19 Update

Dear Humble ISD Community,

As you know, Humble ISD continues to participate in the larger goal of containment of the Coronavirus - COVID-19 in support of our community and healthcare systems. Our new normal, which we all hope is not too long, has challenged us as a community once again, and we want you to know that we are here to support you and your students.

Humble ISD will remain closed until it is safe for us to reopen. **We are currently closed through April 10, 2020**; and while it seems unlikely that we will reopen that soon, this is a rapidly changing situation and no formal decision has been made to extend past April 10th at this time. We are working very hard to provide timely, reliable information, and we genuinely thank you for your patience and your support.

Humble ISD remains committed to providing food to the children in our community ages 1-18 and all Humble ISD students, as long as it is safe to do so. We continually try new approaches, make modifications, and try again. Last week we served more than 54,000 meals. I am extremely proud of all of

our staff participating in this work, and I am thankful we are able to support parents, grandparents, and support networks in feeding children during our district closure.

Humble ISD is committed to supporting our students in continuing to learn and grow during our closure. As you know, state testing is cancelled and we will end our 3rd quarter this Friday, March 27, 2020. Our teachers have pivoted to forms of distance learning almost overnight, and I am very proud of their work as well as their creativity and positive spirits. School will not look or feel the same during closure, but we are committed to learning for all students.

Humble ISD has surveyed our staff regarding access to distance learning tools and our Information Technology (IT) department and building leaders have made sure all employees have the tools and the access necessary to support students from their homes. We are now in the process of assessing the needs of our students and we will work to meet those needs as well.

We continue to hope for the best and also plan for the worst. To this end, we are evaluating all possibilities for appropriate 4th quarter/2nd semester grading, socially distanced prom, socially distanced graduation, and all other aspects of ending the year in closure. While we hope this is not the case, we feel it is important to consider and plan for all possibilities. We know these and many, many other items are on your minds, and we are working to bring you timely and accurate information as we are able.

Please, if you are able, support our local businesses. They are wonderful partners to us, and many of them were hit so hard only two-and-a-half years ago by Hurricane Harvey. And please, if you are able, support those essential workers we all need to report to work right now, as many of them are working long shifts and some are struggling to meet the needs of their own families during this time. We are a very giving community - it is our strength; we support one another and we can get through this together.

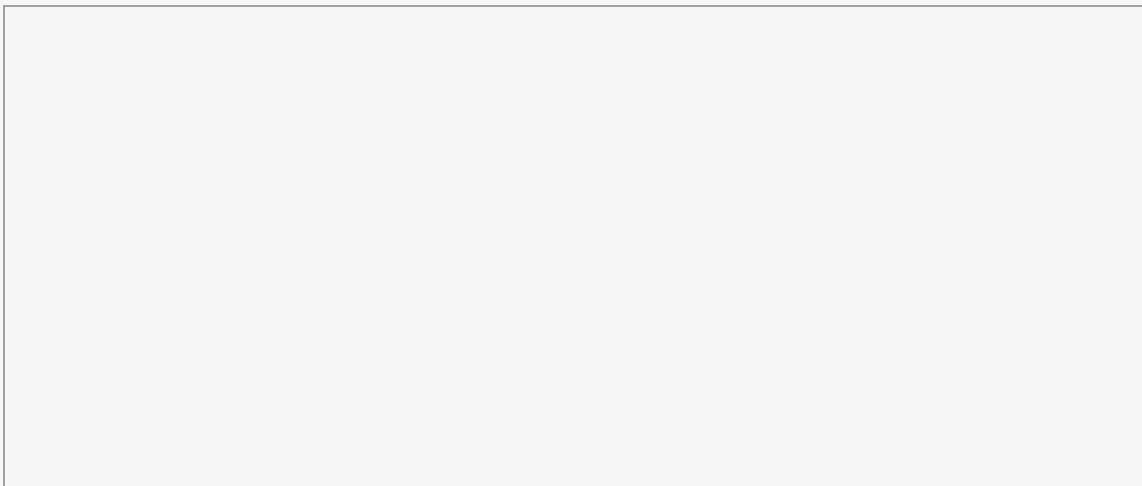
Finally, the Humble ISD family is special and it is strong. Together we will keep our family, friends, and our community safe; and together we will support our children in continuing their learning journey. We are a very personalized system - something of which I am very proud; and even remotely, we will continue to support each student in a personalized way. Please contact your teachers, counselors, and administrators with your questions and concerns so that we can support you. Again, thank you for all that you do and are doing to support us.

Sincerely,
Liz Fagen

Facts:

- There will be no state testing including STAAR and EOC.
- Students will graduate through the Individual Graduation Committee (IGC) process in place of EOC exams
- Pre-ACT and SAT cancelled. ACT rescheduled to June 13, 2020.
- AP testing will be online.
- Prom and Graduation social distancing contingency plans being discussed - continued orders of 10 or fewer will require postponement.
- Third quarter ends March 27, 2020.
- Fourth quarter and second semester grading in development.
- UIL games and contests suspended through Sunday, May 3, 2020.
- Meals available
- Learning opportunities provided for all students.
- Please see humbleisd.net for updates.

Houston Public Media Provides Resources for Students at Home



Houston Public Media

A SERVICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON



Houston Public Media

Students in Pre-K through 12th grade will have the opportunity to access free, educational PBS daytime programming. Many Houston area schools are closed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, causing thousands of students to be without...

[Read more](#)

www.houstonpublicmedia.org

SH-99 Grand Parkway Update



Over the past few months, our crews have made great progress in all segments within the project scope. With the spring time weather now here, we are looking forward to taking advantage of the weather conditions and day light, to achieve some exciting milestones. Below you will find construction updates on segments H, I-1, and I-2. With the team expected to perform bridge construction over IH-59/69 and IH-10 over the coming months.

[Read More](#)

sh99grandpkwy.com

Austin's El Arroyo Hosts Livestream Concert Benefiting Displaced Service Industry Staff

